

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 9, and 17-19. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently amended): In an executing application program interface, a[[A]] method of automatically augmenting functionality in the[[an]] application programming interface comprising the steps of:
 - receiving from an application a request for functionality to be fulfilled by a first component implementing at least a portion of the functionality within the application programming interface; and
 - in response to the received request:
 - querying the first component for the requested functionality;
 - receiving an indication from the first component that the requested functionality is not implemented by the first component;
 - searching for an augmentation component that implements the requested functionality;
 - loading the augmentation component to fulfill the request for functionality in place of the first component; and
 - responding to the request for functionality using the loaded augmentation component.
2. (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the searching step comprises looking for the augmentation component on a computer system executing the application.
3. (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the searching step comprises looking for the augmentation component on a network connected to a computer system executing the application.

4. (Original): The method of Claim 3 wherein the network uses a Uniform Resource Locator to address resources and the searching step uses the Uniform Resource Locator to direct the search.
5. (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the querying, receiving and searching steps create and maintain a catalog of available augmentation component functionality, the catalog being used to determine whether an augmentation component that implements the requested functionality exists.
6. (Original): The method of Claim 5 wherein the catalog is created upon the first request for functionality.
7. (Original): The method of Claim 5 wherein the catalog is recreated upon a specific request.
8. (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the first component is a connector for accessing information stored in databases, file systems, Enterprise Resource Planning systems or transaction systems.
9. (Currently amended): An apparatus for automatically augmenting functionality in an executing application programming interface comprising:
 - an application programming interface module receiving from an application a request for functionality to be fulfilled by a first component implementing at least a portion of the functionality within the application programming interface;
 - a query unit within the application programming interface module querying in response to the received request the first component for the requested functionality;
 - a receiver within the application programming interface module receiving an indication from the first component that the requested functionality is not implemented by the first component;
 - a search unit within the application programming interface module searching for

an augmentation component that implements the requested functionality;

a loader within the application programming interface module loading the augmentation component to fulfill the request for functionality in place of the first component; and

a response unit within the application programming interface module responding to the request for functionality using the loaded augmentation component.

10. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the search unit comprises looking for the augmentation component on a computer system executing the application.
11. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the search unit comprises looking for the augmentation component on a network connected to a computer system executing the application.
12. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the network uses a Uniform Resource Locator to address resources and the searching unit uses the Uniform Resource Locator to direct the search.
13. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the receiver, the query unit, and the search unit create and maintain a catalog of available augmentation component functionality, the catalog being used to determine whether an augmentation component that implements the requested functionality exists.
14. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the catalog is created upon the first request for functionality.
15. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the catalog is recreated upon a specific request.

16. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the first component is a connector for accessing information stored in databases, file systems, Enterprise Resource Planning systems or transaction systems.
17. (Currently amended): An apparatus for automatically augmenting functionality in an executing application programming interface comprising:
- a means for receiving from an application a request for functionality to be fulfilled by a first component implementing at least a portion of the functionality within the application programming interface;
 - a means for querying in response to the received request the first component for the requested functionality;
 - a means for receiving an indication from the first component that the requested functionality is not implemented by the first component;
 - a means for searching for an augmentation component that implements the requested functionality;
 - a means for loading the augmentation component to fulfill the request for functionality in place of the first component; and
 - a means for responding to the request for functionality using the loaded augmentation component.
18. (Currently amended): A computer program product comprising:
- a computer usable medium for automatically augmenting functionality in an executing application programming interface;
 - a set of computer program instructions embodied on the computer usable medium, including instructions to:
 - receive from an application a request for functionality to be fulfilled by a first component implementing at least a portion of the functionality within the application programming interface; and
 - in response to the received request:
 - query the first component for the requested functionality;

receive an indication from the first component that the requested functionality is not implemented by the first component;
search for an augmentation component that implements the requested functionality;
load the augmentation component to fulfill the request for functionality in place of the first component; and
respond to the request for functionality using the loaded augmentation component.

19. (Currently amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising a code segment for automatically augmenting functionality in an executing application programming interface, including instructions to:

receive from an application a request for functionality to be fulfilled by a first component implementing at least a portion of the functionality within the application programming interface; and

in response to the received request:

query the first component for the requested functionality;
receive an indication from the first component that the requested functionality is not implemented by the first component;
search for an augmentation component that implements the requested functionality;
load the augmentation component to fulfill the request for functionality in place of the first component; and
respond to the request for functionality using the loaded augmentation component.